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REMARKS

This response is intended as a full and complete response to the final Office Action mailed February 27, 2006. In the Office Action, the Examiner notes that claims 8-25, 28-52, and 61-159 are pending of which claims 25, 28-30, 32-35, 49-52, 129-134 and 159 are allowed, claims 8-12, 18-20, 31, 33-48, 61-84, 86-107, 109-128, and 135-158 are rejected and claims 13-17, 21-24, 85, and 108 are objected to. By this response, the Applicants have amended claims 8, 18, 79, 95, 103, 109 and 153-155; and cancelled claims 13, 21, 31, 36-39, 61-78, 85, 102, 108, 110-121, 135-143 and 156-158.

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following discussion, Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103. Thus, Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

It is to be understood that Applicants, by amending the claims, do not acquiesce to the Examiner's characterizations of the art of record or to Applicants' subject matter recited in the pending claims. Further, Applicants are not acquiescing to the Examiner's statements as to the applicability of the art of record to the pending claims by filing the instant response, including amendments.

Amendments to the Claims

By this response, claims 8, 18, 79, 95, 103, 109 and 153-155 are amended. The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the Application as originally filed. For example, the amendments to the claims are supported at least by originally filed claims 13, 21, 85 and 108. Thus, no new matter has been added, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the amendments to the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated allowability of claims 25, 28-30, 32-35, 49-52, 129-134, and 159. The Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating allowability with respect to these claims.

Objection to Claims 13-17, 21-24, 85 and 108

The Examiner has objected to claims 13-17, 21-24, 85 and 108 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated they would be allowable if

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rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowable subject matter with respect to these claims. The Applicants have amended claims 8, 18 and 79 to include the subject matter of the objected claims 13, 21, and 85, respectively. Thus, according to the indication of the Examiner, independent claims 8, 18 and 79 are now allowable.

Furthermore, the Applicants have also similarly amended claim 95. The Examiner indicated allowability of claim 108 if it was written in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim from which it depends and any intervening claims. Claim 108 depends on dependent claim 102, which in turn depends on independent claim 95. In the previous response, however, the subject matter of claim 102 has already been added to claim 95 and thus claim 95 as previously presented already contained the subject matter of claims 95 and 102. Moreover, in the present response, the Applicants have amended claim 95 to also contain the subject matter of claim 108. Therefore, according to the indication of the Examiner, claim 95 is now allowable. The Applicants have also amended claims 103, 109 and 153-155 to change their dependency from presently cancelled claim 102 to claim 95.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection of Claims 8-12, 18-20, 31, 36-48, and 122-128

The Examiner has rejected claims 8-12, 18-20, 31, 36-48, and 122-128 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,253,275 to Yurt (hereinafter "Yurt") in view of U.S. Patent 5,115,309 to Hang (hereinafter "Hang") and U.S. Patent 4,868,866 to Williams (hereinafter "Williams").

Regarding claims 31 and 36-39, the Applicants have cancelled these claims for unrelated reasons, and thus the rejection against these claims is moot.

Regarding the other rejected claims, the Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. As discussed above, the Applicants have incorporated objected claims 13, 21, 85 and 108 into independent claims 8, 18, 79 and 95, respectively. Therefore, according to the indication of the Examiner, independent claims 8, 18, 79 and 95 are now allowable. Moreover, dependent claims 9-12, 19-20, 40-48 and 122-128 depend directly or indirectly from independent claims 8, 18, 79 and 95, and therefore are also allowable.

Thus, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.
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35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection of Claims 61-78 and 138-143

The Examiner has rejected claims 61-78 and 138-143 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hang in view of U.S. Patent 4,949,187 to Cohen (hereinafter "Cohen") and U.S. Patent 4,868,866 to Williams (hereinafter "Williams").

For unrelated reasons, the Applicants have cancelled claims 61-78 and 138-143, and thus the rejection against these claims is moot.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection of Claims 79-84, 86-94, and 144-149

The Examiner has rejected claims 79-84, 86-94, and 144-149 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hang in view of Cohen and Williams. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As discussed above, the Applicants have incorporated objected claim 85 into independent claim 79. Therefore, according to the indication of the Examiner, independent claim 79 is now allowable. Moreover, dependent claims 80-84, 86-94 and 144-149 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 79 and therefore are also allowable.

Thus, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection of Claims 95-101 and 150-152

The Examiner has rejected claims 95-101 and 150-152 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yurt in view of Hang, Cohen and Williams. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As discussed above, the Applicants have incorporated objected claim 108 into independent claim 95. Therefore, according to the indication of the Examiner, independent claim 95 is now allowable. Moreover, dependent claims 96-101 and 150-152 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 95 and therefore are also allowable.

Thus, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection of Claims 102-107, 109-121, 153-158

The Examiner has rejected claims 102-107, 109-121 and 153-158 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yurt in view of Hang and Cohen in further view of Williams.

Regarding claims 110-121 and 156-158, the Applicants have cancelled these claims for unrelated reasons, and thus the rejection against these claims is moot.

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Regarding the other rejected claims, the Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. As discussed above, the Applicants have incorporated objected claim 108 into independent claim 95. Therefore, according to the indication of the Examiner, independent claim 95 is now allowable. Moreover, dependent claims 102-107, 109 and 153-155 dependent directly or indirectly from independent claim 95 and therefore are also allowable.

Thus, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection of Claims 135-137

The Examiner has rejected claims 135-137 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yurt in view of Hang and Williams.

For unrelated reasons, the Applicants have cancelled claims 135-137 and thus the rejection against these claims is moot.

Official Notice

In the Office Action, the Examiner alleges as follows (emphasis added below):

"Applicant's failure to properly traverse the Official Notice taken as admission of prior art. In particular applicant must specifically point out the supposed errors in the Examiner's action, which would include stating why the noticed fact is not considered to be common knowledge or well known in the art. See 37 CFR 1.111 (b). Applicant simply makes a broad statement without referring to specific claims or the specific features of which Official Notice was taken." (pages 3-4 of the 2/27/06 Office Action)

Thus, the Examiner alleges that the Applicant failed to properly traverse the Official Notice taken by the Examiner and that the alleged failure is an admission of prior art. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. The Applicants respectfully submit that the Applicants traverse of the Examiner's Official Notice was proper. Furthermore, the Applicant does not acknowledge or agree to any alleged admission of prior art in connection with the traversal of the Official Notice.

Regarding traversing Official Notice, MPEP 2144.03(C) recites (emphasis added below):

"To adequately traverse such a finding, an applicant must specifically point out the supposed errors in the examiner's action, which would include stating why the noticed fact is not considered to be common knowledge or well-known in the art. See 37 CFR 1.111(b). See also Chevenard, 139 F.2d at 713, 60 USPQ at 241 ("[I]n the absence of any demand by appellant for the examiner to produce authority for his statement, we will not consider this contention."). A general allegation that

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the claims define a patentable invention without any reference to the examiner's assertion of official notice would be inadequate."

Thus, to adequately traverse an Official Notice, the Applicants must specifically point out the error of the Official Notice, including why the noticed fact is not considered to be common knowledge or well-known in the art.

In the response filed December 7, 2005, the Applicants provided such a traversal for each Official Notice taken by the Examiner. Specifically, the Applicants submitted in the December 7, 2005 response (emphasis added below):

"The Office Action takes numerous Official Notices. Applicant hereby traverses each Official Notice. The Examiner alleges that certain apparatuses and/or methods are well known in the art. However, the Applicant respectfully disagrees. These apparatuses and/or methods may not be well known within the specific art of the present invention and as specifically recited in their respective claims. Furthermore, it may not be well known to combine the allegedly well known apparatuses and/or methods with other apparatuses and/or methods recited in the respective claims or in other claims from which the respective claims may depend."

This is a proper traversal because the Applicant traversed each Official Notice, and provided a specific reason for each Official Notice why the Noticed subject matter is not considered to be common knowledge or well-known in the art. In particular, for each Official Notice the Applicant submitted the specific reason that the Official Notice was erroneous is that the subject matter is not well known as specifically recited in the claim and because it is not well known to be used in connection with the subject matter of the corresponding independent claim. Because the specific reason why each of the plurality of Official Notices was erroneous was the same for each of the Official Notices, the Applicant was able to combine the plurality of traversals into a singly-stated traversal that was presented as applicable to each of the Official Notices and that was proper for each of the Official Notices. The combining of the traversals does not invalidate each of the inherently contained individual traversals. Instead, it merely is more efficient.

Furthermore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to provide documentary evidence to substantiate each Official Notice. Without this documentary evidence, the Applicant respectfully submits that the Official Notices must be withdrawn. Specifically, MPEP 2144.03(C) recites (emphasis added below):

"If applicant adequately traverses the examiner's assertion of official notice, the examiner must provide documentary evidence in the next

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Office action if the rejection is to be maintained. See 37 CFR 1.104(c)(2). See also Zurko, 258 F.3d at 1386, 59 USPQ2d at 1697 ("[T]he Board [or examiner] must point to some concrete evidence in the record in support of these findings" to satisfy the substantial evidence test). If the examiner is relying on personal knowledge to support the finding of what is known in the art, the examiner must provide an affidavit or declaration setting forth specific factual statements and explanation to support the finding. See 37 CFR 1.104(d)(2)."

Thus, the Examiner must provide documentary evidence, an affidavit or a declaration to maintain the Official Notices.

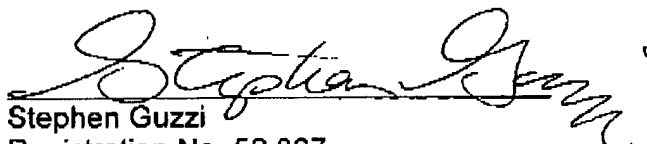
CONCLUSION

Thus, Applicant submits that none of the claims presently in the application are obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Eamon J. Wall at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 4/27/06


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